

KING THOMAS OFF THE TURF.

THE FORTY-THOUSAND-DOLLAR FOLLY IN THE STUD.

HIS LIFE AND WORKS—A MORSEL OF INFORMATION FROM GUTTENBERG—THE POOL ROOM COMBINATION.

The consequences of the retirement of King Thomas to the stud will give the student of heraldry something to think over, and the burning question: Who is right, Locke or Bentzett? will gain in testimony on one side or the other. That this monumental scoundrel should go to the stud at all seems laughable. Some of his descendants are two-year-olds, and upward, of the last being for jumpers. Many of the New York horsemen like to take their horses to Washington to let them for the summer campaign. They have here a home and leave no trace of their visit. The Hotel St. George, for two-year-olds, \$1,000 is added, and to the Durang Handicap \$800. The old man in the other stable is \$800, including the Metropolitan Stud. Thomas M. Drane, secretary, will furnish entry blanks.

When great horses leave the turf they drop out of sight of the general public and are heard of no more except through their offspring. It is not uninteresting to know where some of the famous racers of the last ten years are. The might salvoes of the association, which Roche and his friends have succeeded in laying in the dust, had a highly successful meeting is assured by their liberal and popular management. Their stakes close on Monday, March 20, are for two-year-olds, and upward, of the last being for jumpers. Many of the New York horsemen like to take their horses to Washington to let them for the summer campaign. They have here a home and leave no trace of their visit. The Hotel St. George, for two-year-olds, \$1,000 is added, and to the Durang Handicap \$800. The old man in the other stable is \$800, including the Metropolitan Stud. Thomas M. Drane, secretary, will furnish entry blanks.

None who attended the sale of the Rancho del Paso

in the Madison Square Garden in 1888 can forget the tornado of excitement that kept company with the progress of the bidding. When King Thomas was brought in the sensation was nearly complete. He was represented the most famous family of ranchers on the American turf, and speculation was as high as what price he would fetch. Some of the stanchions among the hundreds of prominent racing men present thought he might possibly bring as much as \$10,000, and there was hardly a man to be found who did not believe that he would be knocked down for as much as Stockton was sold for—\$8,000.

Of course there was not a flaw in him. The wisest judges found him perfect. All horsemen believe in heraldry, and not one of them imagined for a moment that he would not race well as his illustrious family had raced before him. It is amusing now to consider what was said of him on that day. He was reported as magnificent. He had size, bone and substance, three superb qualities in a yearling. His disposition was amiable. His well-tempered courage and resolution, oh, yes! He could make them all off their legs. The more sentimental among the throng of admirers wanted to feel of him and hug him, to rub his daintie legs and pick up his pretty, round body. They could scarcely keep their hands off him.

This beautiful and wonderful creature, not yet near his second birthday, was sold to Appleby & Johnson, a well-known firm of bookmakers, for \$5,000, and within an hour they transferred him to Senator Hearst, of California, for \$40,000, making a neat profit. Perhaps so with a sumbit will never be seen at a sale in this country again. Big proucess for thoroughbreds of all ages are common enough now and occasion no sale, but \$40,000 was a fortune for one in 1888, which, after all, is only five years back.

The history of King Thomas on the turf is too bad to tell here. He was one long, steady descent from the pinnacle of the temple down to the bottom of the bottomless pit. He became known as the "Forty-thousand-dollar Folly," and was derided everywhere. He began his career in a race with the best blood in the land, and wound up at the "Gut." What degradation could be deeper! He ran after the manner of a camel, and with the action of an ox. Jockeys were afraid to ride him, he was so clumsy in his gait. He could scarcely go the circuit of the track without falling, he had soretched a habit of tugging himself up in his own legs.

Such is a brief record of the life and works of this illustrious carion who has been retired to the stud. Some of the best stars of racemores were themselves but little account on the turf, and it has often been demonstrated that the greatest racers do not always make the greatest sires. But in order to be a sire of any merit whatsoever a horse must have some breeding qualities. King Thomas has none, except the pride of ancestry. That is a quality that cannot be overestimated in value, but in horses, as well as in the human family, there is such a thing as an athletic aristocracy. A family sometimes runs out. The family of King Tom and Mamie Hampton seems to have run out in King Thomas. If the original horse was a camelopard, King Thomas has jumped back through hundreds of generations, and gone to first principles. He is the missing link in the horse family.

The Board of Control meets this morning at the office in the Cumberland, Fifth-ave., and Twenty-second-st. Messrs. Dwyer, Cassatt, Galway, Hunter and Lawrence will probably be in attendance.

Weights for the spring handicaps are due on Wednesday morning. Some brilliant work is expected of the handappers this year, as there is little useless time in the lists of entries.

The Washington Jockey Club announces its usual meeting of twelve days, beginning in the latter part of April. Should the New-Jersey clubs be so fortunate as to get a bill through the Legislature, there would be a conflict of dates, as both Elizabeth and Linden Park would reopen their gates.

A bookmaker, one of the delectable Guttenberg "gang," tells this story:

"I've got a friend who has been losing heavily, and I wanted to get him even. The other day we had a good thing at the track, so I went to him and told him to bet on it. 'Don't go to the track, but stay in town and put your money in the pool-rooms,' I said, not thinking he would ask any questions. But he wanted to know right away why he couldn't go to the track and bet, and I, like a fool, told him. You see, we bookies have a hard game at the 'gut.' And he is going to do whatever we can to keep a little cash in the box. The syndicate have odds fifteen or sixteen of the books on the hill, and have the best of the play all the time. The outsiders have to root mighty hard to hold their own, and at that, blessed few of them do it. Of course, it is to the interest of the club to keep on as many books as possible, and when the boys go, they've got to help them out or let them go. The syndicate must have somebody to bet with, for they can't afford to rob one another."

About twice a week we have a horse to run for the books, not in the syndicate, to get in on funds. It is managed in this way. A pretty good horse starts today in the interest of the syndicate, is given out as a good thing, goes to the post at a short price and is beaten out of sight. The public lose and the syndicate pocket the money. All the outside books lose, because the syndicate has backed the winner at a long price. To-morrow the same horse starts again, but the horse is poorer, but the odds are given out as a good thing. We hold him out. The syndicate backs something else, and again he is beaten, the something else winning. The third time he is started, in a still poorer field, and it looks like he will win one. We hold him out, the syndicate plays another horse, and the other horse wins. We get it in the neck right and left for three or four days, and the bookies begin to kick. They threaten to drop out. The syndicate get frightened and give us a chance.

The same horse starts again, at a good price, but the public are tired of him and will have none of him. The order is given that he shall win, but to let him run for us. The punters play everything else, but won't touch him. We lay long prices against the others to catch the money. The race is run and he walks in. We all have a clean break and get enough to go on again. This is the absolute truth, and it's the only way they can keep book'sough on the track to make a respectable showing.

The game over there is simply this: The syndicate fleece the outside bookies three days a week, and let the outside bookies fleece the public just often enough to encourage them to continue business."

Such is winter racing! And the gullible fools, in the face of all this, continue to go to the slaughter!

A strong combination of poolroom proprietors has been formed for the purpose of beating the public. Not satisfied with the ordinary profit of their game, they adopt the method of the highwayman. Information comes from Gloucester or Guttenberg that Crook's is a sure thing, and Crook's owners go from town to town, bettering on him, and the syndicate gets \$10,000 or \$4,000. The public follows the play, and the horse is backed off the track. If he should win, the public would lose heavily. The combination, through its agents at the track, has the horse stopped, and all the money bet on him goes into his thieving pockets.

Some well-known betting men in the city have been mated recently in large sums by this gang of brigands. The writer is not going to sympathize with them, it is his purpose to show the "lamb" what they are playing against. The horse has lost, paid.

The day of the ringer is not past. The notorious

Brannigan, of Pool, had dispute, the notorious

Brennan, of the Crescent City, of

New-Orleans, the ringer is a dangerous turf insti-

tution. Let every fellow concerned in the remotest degree with the New-Orleans episode be ruled off for no mercy for the thieves!

lodge a large one which he saw off the surface. Having no stick convenient to lay off the abalone, he placed his fingers under the shell and tried to detach it with a quick motion. The abalone, however, contracted so tightly that they could not be pulled away. The tide rose and the man was drowned. His companions returned to search for him the next low tide and found him both still imprisoned by the powerful grasp of the abalone upon the rock.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

Sunrise, 7:03 p.m.; 5:11 Moon sets 6:21 a.m.; Moon's age 12.

HIGH WATER TO DAY.

A.M.—Sunday Hawk 5:51 Gt. Bay, Island 6:16 Hell Gate 8:05 P.M.—Sunday Hawk 6:20 Gt. Bay, Island 6:52 Hell Gate 8:15

INCOMING STEAMERS.

TO-DAY.
Vessel. From. Line. To. Vessel. From. Line.
Presto Blanche. Hamburgh, Jan. 20. North-American
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Timonville. Constantinop. Jan. 14. Timonville
Devonia. London, Jan. 21. Anchorage
Socorro. London, Jan. 21. White Star
Socorro. London, Jan. 21. White Star
Muriel. St. John, Jan. 28. —

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31.

State of California. Glasgow, Jan. 21. Alton State
Transport. London, Jan. 21. —
Seaholm. Bremen, Jan. 18. N. G. Lloyd
Seaholm. Rotterdam, Jan. 18. N. G. Lloyd

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

Presto. Liverpool, Jan. 25. White Star
Presto. Liverpool, Jan. 25. White Star
City of Alexandria. Havana, Jan. 25. N. Y. C. Co.

OUTGOING STEAMERS.

TO-DAY.
Vessel. Line. For. Vessel. Line.
Venus. Chittagong, Jan. 25. —
Chitradhara. Ocean, Siam, Jan. 25. —

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31.

Aller. N. G. Lloyd. Bremen, Jan. 25. —
Wednesday, FEBRUARY 1.

Battilano. White Star, Liverpool, 3:00 a.m. 6:00 a.m.
Westland. Red Star, Antwerp, 3:30 a.m. 5:30 a.m.
City of Washington. N. Y. C. Co., Havana, 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
Algonquin. Clyde, Charleston, 3:00 p.m.

FRIEDE. —

FOR SALE.—A steamer of Pharmacy property, No. 209, 210, 211 East 23d Street, North, 75x100 ft., 4 stories, 25 feet wide, 225 ft. deep, 10 inches in depth on both sides. For private terms and terms to suit. To S. W. FAIRCHILD, 101 West 14th Street.

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